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### December 2012 news releases

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# UM NEWS



Google

## December 2012 News

12/21/2012 - [UM Peace Corps Prep Program Contributes To Missoula's Volunteer-Per-Capita Ranking](#) - Daphne Felker

12/21/2012 - [Registration Open For UM Lifelong Learning Courses](#) - Eileen Flannigan

12/21/2012 - [SpectrUM To Offer Free Field Trip Transportation With Nano Bus](#) - Holly Truitt

12/20/2012 - [New Crown Of The Continent E-Magazine Available](#) - Rick Graetz

12/20/2012 - [UM Pedagogy Project Moves Teaching Forward](#) - Tobin Miller Shearer

12/19/2012 - [UM Adopts 32 Families And 11 Veterans In Holiday Giving Programs](#) - Colleen Kane

12/19/2012 - [UM Hires Chief Information Officer](#) - UM Office of the President

12/18/2012 - [Missoula College Now Eligible For Veterans Retraining Program](#) - Peggy Kuhr

12/17/2012 - [UM To Interview Another Communication VP Candidate](#) - Bill Johnston

12/17/2012 - [UM Foundation Encourages Supporters To Inspire Tomorrow's Freshmen](#) - Beth Hammock

12/17/2012 - [UM Plans Memorial Service For Finance VP](#) - Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance

12/17/2012 - [North Mississippi Allstars To Play Concert At UM](#) - Zoe Donovan

12/17/2012 - [Open Forums For UM VP Of Administration And Finance Scheduled](#) - Larry Gianchetta

12/14/2012 - [Study Suggests Coal Expansion Would Boost State Economy](#) - Patrick Barkey

12/12/2012 - [ASUM Receives Grant To Purchase New Bus For Fleet](#) - Nancy Wilson

12/12/2012 - [UM Students Collect Montana Gift Items For Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival](#) - Shannon Furniss

12/11/2012 - [Finalists For UM VP Of Administration And Finance To Visit Campus](#) - Larry Gianchetta

12/11/2012 - [Presale For Tracy Morgan Show Set For Thursday](#) - Zoe Donovan

12/10/2012 - [Incoming UM Student In Running For \\$100,000 Scholarship](#) - Mary Denning

12/10/2012 - [City Of Missoula, University Sign Quality Of Life Initiative](#) - Peggy Kuhr

12/07/2012 - [Comedian, Actor Tracy Morgan To Bring Stand-Up Routine To UM](#) - Zoe Donovan

12/07/2012 - [2012 Montana Tourism Estimates: Record Visitation And Spending](#) - Norma Nickerson

12/06/2012 - [UM Community Invited To Annual Christmas Cookie Cook-Off](#) - Jerry O'Malley

- 12/06/2012 - [UC Gallery To Exhibit 'Everybody's Fine' Student Show](#) - Gwen Landquist
- 12/06/2012 - [New UM Course Provides Scientists With Journalism Tools](#) - Henriette Lowisch
- 12/06/2012 - [UM Professor Appointed 2013 AAAS Fellow](#) - Charles Thompson
- 12/03/2012 - [UM Allies Program Announces Fall 2012 Training Date](#) - Adrienne Donald
- 12/03/2012 - [UM To Host South Campus Master Plan Meeting](#) - Peggy Kuhr
- 12/03/2012 - [Youth Unemployment Jumps In Past Decade](#) - Thale Dillon
- 12/03/2012 - [Rascal Flatts To Play Adams Center Jan. 25](#) - Zoe Donovan

# UM NEWS



Google

December 21, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The United States Peace Corps recently ranked Missoula second, only to Loveland, Colo., in the nation for producing per-capita Peace Corps volunteers. In this year's rankings, the state of Montana came in seventh overall for Peace Corps volunteers per capita.

The University of Montana is the first public university in the country to partner with the Peace Corps to offer the Peace Corps Preparatory Program. Any UM student can earn a Peace Corps certificate through participation in the international development studies minor in UM's College of Arts and Sciences.

"The certificate gives UM students a distinct advantage in the highly competitive application process," said Daphne Felker, program manager for UM's Office of Career Services.

"We have an incredible amount of interest among our students to serve low-income countries," Felker said. "The Peace Corps prep option just helps to open that door for students interested in pursuing the Peace Corps path."

UM has produced 780 Peace Corps volunteers since 1961. At the end of September, Montana had 48 volunteers serving worldwide in the Corps, of those, 32 volunteers are UM alums.

For more information about the Peace Corps, visit UM's Office of Career Services online at <http://umt.edu/peacecorps>. To speak with UM's Peace Corps campus representative Brad Haas in the Office of Career Services, call 46-243-2839. For general information call Felker at 406-243-6150 or email [daphne.felker@umontana.edu](mailto:daphne.felker@umontana.edu).

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122012peac

**Contact:** Daphne Felker, program manager, Office of Career Services, 406-243-6150, [daphne.felker@umontana.edu](mailto:daphne.felker@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



Google

December 21, 2012

## MISSOULA –

Community members age 50 and older now can register for winter courses through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at The University of Montana.

MOLLI winter courses will be held Jan. 24-March 1 and are taught by distinguished UM faculty, emeritus faculty and professionals from the community. Topics include Montana history, anthropology, Central European literature, cuisine artistry, photography, war, agriculture, global health, language myths, mathematics, changes in the Arctic and more.

The full winter 2013 course schedule, class descriptions, instructor biographies and registration are available online at <http://www.umt.edu/molli>. A MOLLI membership fee of \$20 is required to enroll, and courses cost \$60 for one or \$100 for two.

For more information or to register for courses over the phone, call the MOLLI office at 406-243-2905. Interested students also may visit the MOLLI office in the School of Extended and Lifelong Learning in the James E. Todd Building on the UM campus.

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Western Montana

122112moll

**Contact:** Eileen Flannigan, program coordinator, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UM, 406-243-2905, [eileen.flannigan@mso.umt.edu](mailto:eileen.flannigan@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



Google

December 21, 2012

MISSOULA –

Missoula teachers and students can discover just how small a nanometer is as they take a trip to spectrUM Discovery Area’s “Nano” exhibition in January aboard the free Nano Bus.

A spectrUM educator and a University of Montana nano researcher will host the Nano Bus, an exhibit itself. Running each Tuesday, Jan. 15-29 and Feb. 5, the bus is expected to bring hundreds of K-12 students to the UM campus to view exhibits about nanoscale science, engineering and technology, including the “Giant Carbon Nanotube” and “Ferrofluid.”

Slots for classes to visit the “Nano” exhibit on the Nano Bus are available, but are filling fast. To book a spot, call spectrUM Discovery Area Museum Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828.

With programs ranging from community events to traveling exhibits, the spectrUM Discovery Area has served Title I schools as well as Montana’s seven Indian reservations. Since 2006, spectrUM’s K-12 outreach program has traveled more than 20,500 miles to 53 schools in 23 counties, bringing cutting-edge science exhibits to more than 30,600 children and their families.

The Nano Bus is powered by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net) and Beach Transportation.

The University’s spectrUM Discovery Area, located in the Skaggs Building on the UM campus, is open to the public 3:30-7 p.m. Thursday and 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs \$3.50 per person. Teachers can call spectrUM at 406-243-4828 to book a field trip for \$3.50 per student or arrange for spectrUM to visit a school.

For more information visit <http://www.spectrum.umt.edu>, call spectrUM Discovery Area Museum Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828 or email [jessie.herbert@umontana.edu](mailto:jessie.herbert@umontana.edu).

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BP

Local

122012nano

**Contact:** Holly Truitt, director, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, [holly.truitt@mso.umt.edu](mailto:holly.truitt@mso.umt.edu); Jessie Herbert, museum manager, spectrUM, 406-243-4828, [jessie.herbert@umontana.edu](mailto:jessie.herbert@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 20, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The autumn 2012 issue of the Crown of the Continent e-magazine has been released and can be found online at [http://issuu.com/um\\_crown\\_gye/docs/crownofthecontinent-autumn2012](http://issuu.com/um_crown_gye/docs/crownofthecontinent-autumn2012).

The new issue contains scientific articles, which discuss the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' bull trout research and take a look at invasive plant species. It also contains historical articles, which tell the stories of George Bird Grinnell's climb to the glacier that now bears his name in Glacier National Park, and of former Northern Pacific President Henry Villard's 1883 tour of the Mission Valley.

The issue also includes an article and infographic on the use of animal-crossing structures and contains stunning photographs by John Lambing in the "Crowning Moments" section.

The region called the Crown of the Continent encompasses the greater Glacier and Waterton International Peace Park, reaching across the Continental Divide from the Elk River headwaters and Crowsnest Pass in Canada to Rogers Pass and the Blackfoot River drainage in Montana.

The University of Montana launched the Crown of the Continent Initiative to provide an educational catalyst for collaboration between UM and Glacier National Park. The initiative continues to grow and now includes many groups, organizations, agencies and institutions beyond the park in Montana, Alberta and British Columbia.

The initiative publishes three color-filled e-magazines each year, providing up-to-date information about issues driving decisions and research in the Crown. The magazines cover everything from the physical and historical geography of the Crown to interesting scientific research on the region's wildlife, climate, rivers, glaciers and more.

To receive other Crown of the Continent Initiative updates, email [umcrown@umontana.edu](mailto:umcrown@umontana.edu). The Crown of the Continent website is at <http://crown.umt.edu>. Current and past issues of the e-magazine are available in PDF format on the website under "publications."

For more information email Rick Graetz or Jerry Fetz, initiative co-directors, at [umcrown@umontana.edu](mailto:umcrown@umontana.edu).

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**Contact:** Rick Graetz, UM Crown of the Continent Initiative co-director, 406-439-9277, [rick.graetz@mso.umt.edu](mailto:rick.graetz@mso.umt.edu); Jerry Fetz, UM Crown of the Continent Initiative co-director, 406-546-5711, [fetzga@mso.umt.edu](mailto:fetzga@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 20, 2012

## MISSOULA –

Megan Stark now knows what kind of teacher she is. Paul Silverman has figured out how to invite students to take responsibility for their own learning. Joel Iverson has found solutions he didn't know he had.

All three University of Montana faculty members have participated in UM's Pedagogy Project. Now marking its fourth year, the faculty-led initiative brings instructors from across the University together for focused conversation and reflection on teaching. Since its inception, the 25 fellows in the program have conducted more than 75 mid-semester evaluations in one another's classes and engaged thousands of students in discussions about the most effective ways to enhance learning in the classroom.

UM history Assistant Professor and African-American Studies program Coordinator Tobin Shearer launched what would become the Pedagogy Project after coming to UM from Northwestern University in 2008. Shearer had worked with the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence at Northwestern, and wanted to begin the conversation about teaching among UM faculty.

After running a sort of pilot program with another professor during his first semester of teaching, Shearer shopped the idea around to different faculty and the Pedagogy Project was born.

"I think none of us are going to be able to maintain a cutting-edge teaching performance if we're not constantly having a conversation about teaching," Shearer said. "The best way to do that is simply open a conversation among faculty."

Fellows in the program commit to conducting a mid-semester evaluation in one to two other classes. They then review the results with the other instructors and attend a discussion with the other fellows to share insights gained from the process across departments and disciplines.

The mid-semester evaluations, which take 20-30 minutes, consist of the visiting fellow asking the students to discuss three questions in small groups: What aspects of the course enhance learning? What could be improved to better enhance learning? What could you as students do to enhance your learning? Students rank their top comments on the questions, then rank how much they agree with the top comments.

This process, which the Pedagogy Project has conducted in small and large courses, offers faculty relevant feedback they may not receive in written course evaluations. Because students are encouraged to discuss their thoughts and consider others' comments, the evaluation goes through its own trial.

After their first year, project fellows can invite another participant in the program to observe them teaching and offer feedback, as well as help plan and facilitate the campus wide faculty development series the program offers each autumn semester. To date, the Pedagogy Project has organized micro-talks with titles such as "Teaching Naked vs. Digitally Adorned: Using Technology in the Classroom" and "Office Chair vs. Therapist's Couch: Your Role as Faculty During Students' Emotional Crises."

The cross-disciplinary nature of the project allows faculty to engage in conversations about their passion for teaching, rather than their specific areas of expertise. Shearer said his favorite thing about engaging in the project is working with faculty across campus and learning techniques and ideas they've developed over the years.

Mansfield Librarian and Davidson Honors College Instructor Stark said the benefit of the project doesn't just influence the student-teacher relationship.

"Whenever I felt unsure of my teaching, I would fall back on imitating the habits of teachers I admire," she said. "In particular, I relied too heavily on humor that wasn't characteristic of me. Thanks to the feedback I received in the Pedagogy Project, I realized that the students learned more and responded better to me when I stopped trying to be someone else and instead shared with them my love of the culture of books and reading.

"They actually became more engaged the more I acted like myself. Perhaps this sounds obvious, but it deeply impacted my confidence in the classroom and continues to shape who I am as a teacher."

Likewise, others have learned how to better support students through the Pedagogy Project. Silverman, a psychology professor, now asks students what he can do to support them in their efforts to do the readings, participate in class discussions and invest more in assignments. Communication Studies Associate Professor Iverson reflected on his own experiences as a first-generation college student to address problems such as the temptation for students to drop out and stop short of earning a



degree.

“Once I realized that I could use my experience to help students not just stay in college but thrive here, I had a whole new set of solutions to offer,” Iverson said.

Over the past few years, the project has grown and incorporated better practices based on feedback from students or faculty. The mid-semester evaluations are streamlined and offer tangible advice to professors, so they’re not a drag on valuable class time. Even experienced faculty members have seen how they can grow and continue to learn as instructors, proving that the Pedagogy Project isn’t just for teachers who need help.

Faculty members are learning how to think differently to solve problems, big or small, and Shearer said the intent of the project – and the key to improved teaching and learning – is communication. Discussions such as how to improve grading rubrics to help students better understand assignments, how to switch to inquiry-based lectures or respond to a student who dominates class conversations all help UM faculty advance their skills.

“We come together not because we have to, but because we want to,” said Pedagogy Project Co-Coordinator Amy Ratto-Parks. “It is the voluntary nature of our time together that makes our collaboration effective.”

For more information about the Pedagogy Project, call Shearer at 406-243-6225 or email [tobin.shearer@umontana.edu](mailto:tobin.shearer@umontana.edu).

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BP/ts

Local

122012peda

**Contact:** Tobin Miller Shearer, assistant professor of history and UM African-American Studies Program coordinator, [tobin.shearer@umontana.edu](mailto:tobin.shearer@umontana.edu), [406-243-6225](tel:406-243-6225).

# UM NEWS



Google

December 19, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The Office for Civic Engagement at The University of Montana teamed up with the Salvation Army and Poverello Center to meet the holiday needs of 32 families and 11 veterans during this year's Adopt-A-Family and Adopt-A-Veteran programs.

The campus community was contacted about the opportunity by the UM Office of the President, and those interested in donating were able to adopt a family or veteran through the OCE. Gifts were dropped off at the OCE, located in the Davidson Honors College, and faculty and staff members made sure all donations were wrapped before sending them to the Salvation Army or the Poverello Center's Valor House for veterans.

"The UM community's overwhelming participation in the Adopt-A-Family/Veteran programs this year was incredible," said Colleen Kane, OCE student programs manager. "The OCE was absolutely bursting with presents. Many folks are struggling this year, but the generosity shown to those in greater need is enormously inspiring."

The Adopt-A-Family/Veteran programs assist people who are struggling to provide for themselves or their families, and help ensure that everyone in the Missoula area is able to celebrate the holidays. This year marked the Salvation Army's 16th annual Adopt-A-Family and the Poverello Center's fourth annual Adopt-A-Veteran program.

The OCE serves as the University's primary agent of community activism and civic responsibility. Through various programs and projects, the OCE promotes civic engagement as a means to develop actively engaged citizens in our democratic society.

For more information call Kane at 406-243-5128 or email [colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu](mailto:colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu).

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**Photo cutline:** University of Montana faculty and staff help wrap gifts donated to the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family and the Poverello Center's Adopt-A-Veteran programs. The UM community donated holiday gifts for 32 families and 11 veterans this year. (Photo courtesy of the UM Office for Civic Engagement)

BP

Local

121912adop

**Contact:** Colleen Kane, student programs manager, UM Office for Civic Engagement, 406-243-5128, [colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu](mailto:colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu).



# UM NEWS



December 19, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana has hired Matthew Riley for the position of chief information officer. Riley, who visited campus in late November, will begin his new duties in April.

"Matt Riley brings a great combination of knowledge, experience and interpersonal skill to this position," UM President Royce Engstrom said. "He impressed everyone as a true collaborator who will lead us to the next level in information technology.

"The search committee did an excellent job of recruiting a group of outstanding finalists. I am delighted that Matt and his family will become a part of our University and our community."

Riley has been the director of information technology at the School of Humanities and Sciences at Stanford University since 2007. Prior to Stanford, he worked in information technology, including as director of technical services, at the University of Redlands in Redlands, Calif., and as a programmer and analyst in the U.S. Air Force. Riley holds a master's of business administration and a bachelor's in business and management from the University of Redlands.

"My family and I are very excited to join both the impressive leadership team at the University and the community of Missoula," Riley said.

The CIO serves as a member of the President's Cabinet and also serves as the information technology liaison to the Montana University System. The CIO provides strategic vision and leadership to the main UM campus and works with the other affiliated campuses on information technology issues, policies, infrastructure and technology investments.

For more information call the UM Office of the President at 406-243-2311 or email [prestalk@umontana.edu](mailto:prestalk@umontana.edu).

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State

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**Contact:** UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, [prestalk@umontana.edu](mailto:prestalk@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 18, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, which offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed veterans, now is available at Missoula College of The University of Montana.

VRAP is part of the federal VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Veterans Affairs gave approval for Missoula College to use the program on Dec. 17. Veterans must be enrolled full-time in an approved program of education offered by a community (two-year) college or technical school to use the program.

"Eligible veterans who already are enrolled will be identified, and their payments will be processed by the end of the week – including any retroactive payments," said Ron Muffick, director of student financial services with Montana's Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

UM officials recently learned a handful of Missoula-area veterans had qualified for VRAP but were unable to use the funding to attend Missoula College.

"It was a matter of filling out the right paperwork as soon as we learned there was a problem," UM President Royce Engstrom said. "I'm glad we have this bureaucratic issue solved. We want to do everything in our power to assist our veterans with their education and civilian lives."

To be eligible for VRAP, veterans must:

- be at least 35 years old.
- be unemployed on the date of application.
- have received an other-than-dishonorable discharge.
- not be eligible for other VA education benefit programs.
- not receive VA compensation because of unemployability.
- not be enrolled in any federal or state job-training program.

For more information visit the UM Veterans Education and Transition Services website at <https://life.umt.edu/apps/vets/certify/>, or the VRAP site at <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>. Missoula College admissions counselor Kyle Pucko is available to assist qualifying veterans by emailing [kyle.pucko@mso.umt.edu](mailto:kyle.pucko@mso.umt.edu).

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CBS

Local, dailies

121812vtrn

**Contact:** Peggy Kuhr, UM interim vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, [peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu](mailto:peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu); UM Veterans Education and Transition Services, 406-243-2744, [vetooffice@umontana.edu](mailto:vetooffice@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 17, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana will interview an additional candidate for the position of vice president for integrated communications this week.

The search committee received several late applications, and after reviewing them decided to invite Peggy Kuhr, dean of the UM journalism school and interim communications vice president, to interview. Kuhr resigned as chair of the VPIC search committee before applying.

Kuhr will interview with a variety of campus departments this week, and a public open forum is set for 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, in the University Center Theater.

The vice president for integrated communications is the chief communications officer for the University and will provide leadership for UM marketing and branding, licensing, social media and all other communications. This position directly oversees the Broadcast Media Center, Printing and Graphic Services and University Relations.

Kuhr has served as the interim vice president since August. She joined UM as dean of the School of Journalism in August 2007 and currently is president of the national Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication.

She had a 26-year career in newspapers before joining the University of Kansas in 2002 as professor and Knight Chair on the Press, Leadership and Community. Kuhr also spent 16 years at The Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Wash., serving as projects editor, city editor, assistant managing editor and, ultimately, managing editor for content.

Four candidates already have interviewed for the vice president position: Scott Ochander, Valparaiso University vice president for integrated marketing and communications-greater Chicago area; Mario Schulzke, founder of IdeaMensch, a digital publication aimed at helping entrepreneurs; Kari Dilloo, group communications manager with Microsoft/Bing; and Libby Eckhardt, chief communications officer for the College of Arts and Sciences at Ohio State University.

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CBS

Western Montana, Dailies

121712vpic

**Contact:** Bill Johnston, chairman, UM vice president for integrated communications search committee, 406-243-5211, [bill.johnston@umontana.edu](mailto:bill.johnston@umontana.edu); Cary Shimek, search committee member, 406-240-9582, [cary.shimek@umontana.edu](mailto:cary.shimek@umontana.edu).



# UM NEWS



December 17, 2012

MISSOULA –

From rigorous academics to a vibrant learning atmosphere, nothing compares to the experience of attending The University of Montana. Alumni say they want today's high school seniors to have the same opportunity they had to learn in this inspiring place. The UM Foundation is asking all University supporters to get involved in ensuring this year's high school seniors are inspired to enroll next fall.

"Student recruitment is a highly competitive business and universities across the country keep raising the stakes," said Royce Engstrom, president of The University of Montana. "We are intent on leveling the playing field for recruiting today's talented high school seniors."

Support from donors will provide more financial aid to this year's seniors. The financial aid awards will depend on how much is donated in the next two months.

"The goal is to ensure every student who wants to attend UM this fall has financial support," Engstrom said.

Zach Brown, a senior from Bozeman, is an example of a student recruited by UM through a competitive scholarship package. Brown spends much of his time working to improve the University as president of the Associated Students of UM. He also has added to the University's prestige by winning two national scholarships, the Truman and Udall scholarships.

"Scholarships, and the donors who funded them, allowed me to focus on my studies and to give back to the University," Brown said. "They impacted the framework of my education. More than that, they changed my life."

Contributions may be made online at <http://www.supportUM.org/classof13> or by sending a check to The University of Montana Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159. Those who wish to discuss a gift over the phone may call 800-443-2593 or 406-243-2593.

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Local

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**Contact:** Beth Hammock, vice president of strategic communications and marketing, UM Foundation, 406-243-4609, [beth.hammock@umontana.edu](mailto:beth.hammock@umontana.edu).



# UM NEWS



December 17, 2012

**MISSOULA –**

The University of Montana will host a memorial service for Robert Duringer, UM vice president for administration and finance, at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the University Center Ballroom. A reception will follow at noon in the Canyon Room of Washington Grizzly Stadium. The public is welcome to attend.

Duringer died Dec. 12. He served UM as an administrator for 12 years and was planning to retire at the end of December.

During his tenure at UM, Duringer oversaw tremendous growth of campus infrastructure, as well as UM's Adams Center, Business Services, Facilities Services, Human Resource Services, Montana Island Lodge, the Office of Public Safety and Office of Planning, Budget and Analysis.

He served in the U. S. Army, reaching the rank of colonel, and worked at the West Point Academy, Oregon State University and the University of Maine before joining UM. Duringer's wife, Jan, works at the University in the Adams Center.

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CBS

Local

121412duri

**Contact:** Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance, 406-243-4662, .

# UM NEWS



December 17, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The southern rock/blues band North Mississippi Allstars will play a concert at The University of Montana at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, in the University Center Ballroom. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the show, which was organized by UM Productions.

The North Mississippi Allstars was formed in 1996 by brothers Luther and Cody Dickinson and Chris Chew. The band's albums "Shake Hands With Shorty," "51 Phantom" and "Electric Blue Watermelon" have received Grammy Award nominations for Best Contemporary Blues Album. The group won a Blues Music Award for Best New Artist Debut in 2001. In 2011, they opened for Robert Plant and the Band of Joy on their concert tour.

Tickets for the show cost \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students. They are available at all Griz Tix locations, the Adams Center Box Office, online at <http://www.griztix.com> and by calling 406-243-4051 or 1-888-MONTANA.

For more information call Zoe Donovan, UM Productions marketing coordinator, at 406-243-4719 or email [marketing@umproductions.org](mailto:marketing@umproductions.org).

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Western Montana

121412blue

**Contact:** Zoe Donovan, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 406-243-4719, [marketing@umproductions.org](mailto:marketing@umproductions.org).



# UM NEWS



December 17, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The open forums for the final two candidates for The University of Montana vice president of administration and finance position have been scheduled for Monday, Dec. 17, and Thursday, Dec. 20. Lon Whitaker, the first candidate to visit campus, conducted an open forum from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14.

The schedule for the open forums is:

- **Monday, Dec. 17:** Michael Reid, 3:30-4:30 p.m., University Center Theater
- **Thursday, Dec. 20:** Rob Gannon, 3:30-4:30 p.m., University Center Theater

The forums are free and open to the University and Missoula communities, and faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.

Resumes for the candidates can be viewed online at <http://www.umt.edu/adminfin/Vice%20President%20Search/>. For more information call the UM School of Business Administration Dean Larry Gianchetta, head of the search committee for the vice president, at 406-243-6195.

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BP

Local

121412foru

**Contact:** Larry Gianchetta, UM School of Business Administration dean and head of the search committee, 406-243-6195, [officeofthedean@business.umt.edu](mailto:officeofthedean@business.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS

December 14, 2012

MISSOULA –

Montana's economy could be significantly impacted by expansion at its existing coal mines and development of new mines, according to a study recently completed by The University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

Expansion of the Spring Creek coal mine near Decker would boost Montana jobs, household income and tax revenues, according to an economic impact study conducted by BBER economist Patrick Barkey.

According to the report, "The Economic Impact of Increased Production at the Spring Creek Mine," commissioned by the Montana Chamber of Commerce, a proposed increase of coal production by 20 million tons at the mine owned by Cloud Peak Energy would more than double output at the facility and require expansion in capital and equipment, labor force and new purchases of resources such as electricity and work uniforms.

The study found that with a status-quo, no-expansion scenario, by 2018 the project is expected to create 1,421 permanent jobs across a wide range of industries and occupations in all regions of the state. Income for Montana households would collectively increase by more than \$58 million. Projected state government tax revenues on coal production and growth in Montana's tax base were estimated to reach more than \$55 million per year.

BBER's study found that the Spring Creek expansion also would generate higher rail volume across Montana. Rail and coal jobs pay significantly more in wages and benefits than the state average, and the spending by those workers combined with additional purchases by vendors and suppliers would support hundreds of additional jobs in industries such as construction, retail, health care services and public schools.

BBER director and study author Barkey notes that while a number of coal projects in the state propose new mines, Spring Creek is unique in that it represents growth of an existing operation.

"This is the first study we've done that measures growth as a result of coal expansion," Barkey said. "The results demonstrate that whether we measure jobs, income or output, the economy of the state of Montana stands to benefit significantly from the project."

BBER is a research center producing economic and industry data for Montana. For more information visit <http://www.bber.umt.edu/>.

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CH/cbs  
State  
121412coal

**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, [patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu](mailto:patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 12, 2012

MISSOULA –

In an effort to meet future community transportation needs in Missoula, Associated Students of The University of Montana Transportation recently applied for and received a Clean Diesel Grant from Montana Department of Environmental Quality. A new El Dorado bus will replace one of the 1997 New Flyer buses currently in use. The new bus is expected to arrive in September 2013. According to Brian Spangler of Montana DEQ, ASUM Transportation was a great candidate for this grant.

Due to the increased demand for bus service, students purchased used equipment to meet growing needs. The service gave 3,860 rides in 2000 and 445,000 rides in 2012, increasing from a 15-passenger van to a six-bus system in a very short time. With buses costing around \$400,000 new and \$40,000 used, the students found that used buses met their needs but were not state-of-the-art equipment and caused some issues with the surrounding neighborhood. In an effort to address these concerns, ASUM has been looking for additional funding and was thrilled to be awarded this grant.

"ASUM Transportation has taken community concerns about noise and pollution levels very seriously," said ASUM President Zach Brown. "Our service has been reducing traffic congestion and overall emissions along our routes for years. But it is our obligation to plan for future growth so that we can purchase the most efficient, quiet and environmentally friendly buses that student dollars can afford. This grant is a huge step in the right direction – for us and for the community of Missoula."

Students continue to appreciate the convenience and efficiency of their bus system. Likewise, many University District residents appreciate reduced traffic counts in this corridor even as the student population increases. The new bus and the existing system are essential to linking student housing, recreation, general services and Missoula College to the mountain campus.

Sally Daer, a long-time Missoula resident and member of the University District community, has seen ASUM Transportation services improve her neighborhood over the past decade.

"I used to have a really hard time backing out of my driveway because of traffic, but ASUM's bus service has really reduced traffic congestion along Arthur Avenue and I no longer have those problems," she said. "I think those buses have really improved my neighborhood over the years."

ASUM Transportation is one of only a handful of student-run, student-funded transportation organizations in the country.

For more information call ASUM Transportation Director Nancy Wilson or visit [http://life.umt.edu/asum/asum\\_agencies/Transportation/](http://life.umt.edu/asum/asum_agencies/Transportation/).

###

NW/all

Local

121212buss

**Contact:** Nancy Wilson, ASUM Office of Transportation director, 406-243-4599, [nancy.wilson@mso.umt.edu](mailto:nancy.wilson@mso.umt.edu); Zach Brown , ASUM president, 406-243-2038 (office), 406-396-3037 (cell), [asum.president@mso.umt.edu](mailto:asum.president@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 12, 2012

## MISSOULA –

Unique Montana gifts such as coffee from Missoula-based Hunter Bay and golf balls with Grizzly paws are among the items University of Montana Entertainment Management students are collecting to put in gift bags for nearly 50 musicians who will play at a festival put together by one of music's biggest names, Eric Clapton.

Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival 2013, sponsored by Chase, will be held in New York's Madison Square Garden April 12-13 and is a benefit for Crossroads Centre Antigua, a chemical dependency treatment center founded by Clapton.

Students are working with businesses throughout the state to get owners to donate locally made products and bring a touch of Montana to New York City, according to Scott Douglas, program director of UM's School of Business Administration Entertainment Management program.

The gift bags will go to musicians, including John Mayer, Keith Urban, Jeff Beck, Brad Paisley, B.B. King and many others, who will donate their time and talent to raise funds for Crossroads Centre Antigua.

In addition to getting the donations for gift bags, entertainment management students will help publicize and promote the Crossroads festival. This is the fourth festival in which the students have been involved.

"This is an incredible learning opportunity for the students," Douglas said. "Helping raise money for the Crossroads Centre is a worthwhile cause, and students will get to work on a festival featuring some of the world's most legendary guitar players."

Darah Fogarty, a UM business school graduate student who works with the Entertainment Management program is excited about promoting – and attending – the Madison Square Garden festival. An up-and-coming Montana singer/songwriter, Fogarty said she looks forward to seeing such talented musicians all on one stage.

Fogarty said the education and opportunities she's gotten through the UM Entertainment Management program have influenced her career decisions. "I hope to take what I've learned and develop as an artist, entertainer and entrepreneur," she said.

Montana businesses that have items they would like to donate for the artist gift bags can call Paul Tappon, a UMEM senior, at 541-979-2455 or email [prtappon@gmail.com](mailto:prtappon@gmail.com).

For more information on the Crossroads festival, visit <http://www.crossroadsguitarfestival.com/>.

The Entertainment Management program covers many aspects of the entertainment business including music, television, film, sports, live performance, literary and visual arts. The program introduces students to the business of entertainment while giving them the opportunity to speak with and learn from professionals in the industry.

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SF/all

State

121212gift

**Contact:** Shannon Furniss, editor, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-2782, [shannon.furniss@business.umt.edu](mailto:shannon.furniss@business.umt.edu).



# UM NEWS



December 11, 2012

## MISSOULA –

Three final candidates for The University of Montana vice president of administration and finance position will visit campus in the next two weeks. Lon Whitaker, Michael Reid and Rob Gannon will conduct on-campus interviews and public forums during their visits.

The vice president for administration and finance oversees departments including the Adams Center, Business Services, Facilities Services, Montana Island Lodge, Human Resource Services, Public Safety, and Planning, Budget and Analysis. The office is responsible for all administrative and financial support activities within the University, as well as the campuses in Butte, Dillon and Helena.

The first candidate open forum, with Whitaker, is scheduled for 2:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, in the University Center Theater. The time and location of the open forums for the other candidates has not yet been announced, but Reid will visit campus Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 17-18, and Gannon will visit Thursday and Friday, Dec. 20-21. University faculty and staff, along with members of the community, are encouraged to attend the forums.

Whitaker currently is the vice president for finance and administration at Eastern Oregon University, and previously served five years as the vice president of business affairs at Salish Kootenai College. He also has worked as an accounting and business instructor at Helena College UM (formerly Helena College of Technology), and as an equity analyst and information systems auditor for the State of Montana. Whitaker holds an MBA from UM and bachelor's degrees in accounting and business administration/finance from Carroll College.

Reid is the vice president for finance and administration at Angelo State University in Texas. He also served as the vice president for finance and administration from 2004 to 2011 at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania and from 2001 to 2004 at Pueblo Community College in Colorado. He has held other financial positions at Southern Utah University, Dixie State College and Utah State University. He holds both an MBA and bachelor's degree in finance from Utah State University.

Gannon is the human resource manager for the Department of Transportation in King County, Wash. From 2003 to 2011, he served as the director of academic budgets and personnel at UM, and previously was the director of Human Resource Services and interim director of equal opportunity and affirmative action at the University. Prior to working at UM, Gannon held private-sector positions at Starbucks Coffee Co., Amazon.com and a Seattle law firm. He holds both a master's of public administration and bachelor's degree in English from UM. He also has completed Harvard Executive Education in negotiation and competitive decision-making and negotiating labor agreements.

Candidate resumes and campus-visit schedules can be viewed at <http://www.umt.edu/adminfin/Vice%20President%20Search/>. For more information call the UM School of Business Administration Dean Larry Gianchetta, head of the search committee for the vice president, at 406-243-6195.

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BP

Local

121112vpad

**Contact:** Larry Gianchetta, UM School of Business Administration dean and head of the search committee, 406-243-6195, [officeofthedean@business.umt.edu](mailto:officeofthedean@business.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS

December 11, 2012

MISSOULA –

Presale tickets for the upcoming Tracy Morgan stand-up comedy show will be available Thursday, Dec. 13. Morgan’s show “Excuse My French” will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre at The University of Montana.

Presale tickets will be available from 10 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. online at <http://www.griztix.com> with the password “French.” Public tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 14. Tickets cost \$49.50 and will be available for purchase at the Adams Center Box Office, all GrizTix outlets, by phone at 406-243-4051 or online. Additional fees may apply.

Morgan is a star of NBC’s sitcom “30 Rock” and a former “Saturday Night Live” cast member. During his seven-year stint on SNL he created the memorable characters Astronaut Jones and Brian Fellow. He was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2009 for his work on “30 Rock” and for the past five years has been nominated for the Supporting Actor NAACP Image Award. In 2011, Morgan headlined the New York Comedy Festival, which featured comedians such as Bill Maher, Andy Samberg and Patton Oswalt.

“Excuse My French” is recommended for a mature audience. For more information call UM Productions Marketing Coordinator Zoe Donovan at 406-243-4719 or email [marketing@umproductions.org](mailto:marketing@umproductions.org).

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BP  
Western Montana  
121112sale

**Contact:** Zoe Donovan, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 406-243-4719, [marketing@umproductions.org](mailto:marketing@umproductions.org).

# UM NEWS



Google

December 10, 2012

MISSOULA –

When Mary Drenning begins her coursework at The University of Montana in January, she hopes to bring \$100,000 with her. Drenning, an incoming student in UM's Pre-Medical Sciences Program, is a top-10 finalist for the 2012 Dr Pepper Tuition Giveaway.

The Dr Pepper Tuition Giveaway accepted one-minute video pitches from students across the country to explain why they deserve to win a \$100,000 scholarship. Of the top-10 finalists, the top five whom receive votes from the public will get the chance to throw for the scholarship at the Discover BCS National Championship Game on Monday, Jan. 7.

Drenning, who hopes to become a veterinarian, is up against students pursuing careers as teachers, engineers, social workers and more. Members of the public can vote for finalists each day, once with an email or social-networking account, and once with a special Twitter hashtag.

Drenning first heard about the competition after doing a Google search for scholarships. Her brother helped her film the one-minute video pitch in the August heat of Orlando, Fla., where Drenning attends Valencia College. Luckily, it wasn't difficult to come up with something to say in her pitch.

"I'm passionate," she said. "I can talk for hours about wanting to be a vet."

Drenning has wanted to come to Montana since childhood. When she was 13 years old she started researching universities in the state. After she discovered that UM offered a bachelor's degree in ecology and organismal biology, she knew Missoula was the right destination.

"At most universities, you can get a biology or chemistry degree, but you have to take all the pre-vet classes separately," she said. "In the UM program, all the classes are built into the degree."

By acquiring her pre-veterinary requirements within her degree program, Drenning can save time and money on the long journey to becoming a veterinarian. She already received a \$2,500 scholarship through Dr Pepper for making it to the tuition giveaway finals, but the full prize wouldn't hurt.

The Pre-Medical Sciences Program is an advising program within the UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. The program helps students become well-informed, well-prepared applicants to health professions schools in disciplines such as dentistry, osteopathic medicine, veterinary medicine and optometry.

Voting is open until Dec. 17, and Drenning's video can be viewed online at <http://www.drpeppertuition.com/entry/55>. She currently is in eighth place. For more information call Drenning at 321-439-9072 or email [cannonandgreta@gmail.com](mailto:cannonandgreta@gmail.com). For more information on UM's Pre-Medical Advising Program, visit <http://www.health.umt.edu/pre-med/faq>.

###

BP

State

121012dren

**Contact:** Mary Denning, incoming UM student, 321-439-9072, [cannonandgreta@gmail.com](mailto:cannonandgreta@gmail.com).





# UM NEWS



December 10, 2012

## MISSOULA –

City of Missoula and University of Montana leaders launched a new Community Quality of Life Initiative on Monday, Dec. 10, pledging to work together on a variety of methods to enhance student housing options and improve neighborhood relations.

Mayor John Engen, University of Montana President Royce Engstrom and Associated Students of UM President Zach Brown signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the initiative at the UM president's residence in the University District.

The parties agreed to work together to create up to 1,000 units of safe, affordable student housing close to campus within two years. They also will cooperate on expanding the city's quality of life program, ASUM's Neighborhood Ambassador Program and UM-community outreach efforts.

Involving both ASUM and the UM Office of Public Safety, the expanded programs will educate about and enforce laws on issues such as speeding, underage drinking at parties, parking, littering, animal welfare, and neighbor-to-neighbor relations.

The partnership will go a long way toward calming long-term tensions in the neighborhood, Mayor Engen said.

"We've been working together to find a way to address long-standing concerns in our community in a meaningful, positive way," Engen said. "This initiative is deliberate, practical and, frankly, overdue. I'm excited to work with our partners in this effort to make Missoula an even better place for all of her citizens."

Engstrom said the goal of the initiative is to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing for students, improve all city neighborhoods through a quality of life program, and improve transportation and parking options for all residents.

"Our community is among this University's greatest assets, and vice-versa," Engstrom said. "It is in everyone's interest to further improve our relationship. We want to be the best of neighbors and true partners, and we want to demonstrate that – not just by having good intentions, but also by taking action."

ASUM leadership is pleased to be part of a consolidated approach to providing safe near-campus housing that is appropriate and affordable for students, Brown said. The partners also will work to improve existing rental housing through basic regulation of residential rental property. That work will include the Missoula City Council, the Montana Legislature and the private sector and will emphasize safety, code enforcement, education and neighborhood courtesy.

"Students and permanent residents are invested in the future of this community, and the ASUM leadership is fully committed to improving relationships moving forward," Brown said. "The University, its students and the community of Missoula are all inextricably linked, but collaboration between these groups has not always been evident. The signing of this document signals a new trend of leadership in this community that is very exciting to me."

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GM/cbs

Western Montana

121012pldg

**Contact:** Peggy Kuhr, UM interim vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, [peggy.kuhr@mso.umt.edu](mailto:peggy.kuhr@mso.umt.edu); Ginny Merriam, City of Missoula public information/communications director, 406-552-6007, [gmerriam@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:gmerriam@ci.missoula.mt.us); Zach Brown, ASUM president, 406-243-2038, [asum.president@mso.umt.edu](mailto:asum.president@mso.umt.edu).



# UM NEWS



December 07, 2012

**MISSOULA –**

Star of NBC's sitcom "30 Rock" and former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Tracy Morgan will bring his stand-up comedy routine "Excuse My French" to The University of Montana on Thursday, March 28, 2013. The show is meant for mature audiences and will begin at 7 p.m. in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre on campus.

Morgan has played many successful roles on television, and during his seven-year stint on SNL he created the memorable characters "Astronaut Jones" and "Brian Fellow." He was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2009 for his work on "30 Rock" and for the past five years has been nominated for the Supporting Actor NAACP Image Award. In 2011, Morgan headlined the New York Comedy Festival, which featured comedians such as Bill Maher, Andy Samberg and Patton Oswalt.

Tickets for "Excuse My French" go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 14, and will cost \$49.50. They are available for purchase at the Adams Center Box Office, all GrizTix outlets, by phone at 406-243-4051 or online at <http://www.griztix.com>. Additional fees may apply.

For more information call UM Productions Marketing Coordinator Zoe Donovan at 406-243-4719 or email [marketing@umproductions.org](mailto:marketing@umproductions.org).

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BP  
Western Montana  
120712morg

**Contact:** Zoe Donovan, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 406-243-4719, [marketing@umproductions.org](mailto:marketing@umproductions.org).



December 07, 2012

MISSOULA –

More than 10.9 million out-of-state travelers will have visited Montana in 2012, according to a preliminary estimate by The University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. This is a 3.2 percent increase over the number of nonresident travelers in 2011.

The increase in visitor volume injected more dollars into the Montana economy. According to Kara Grau, assistant director of economic analysis at ITRR, nonresident travelers spent nearly \$3.2 billion in Montana in 2012, which was a 15 percent increase over spending in 2011.

Nonresidents spent more money per day during the first quarter (\$144.64 per day) and the least amount during third quarter (\$129.61). "Much of this difference is attributed to more people passing through in the summer and camping or staying at private homes instead of motels," said Grau.

In addition to the nonresident travel, 15 million residents traveled for leisure within Montana in 2012, spending \$833 million around the state. The direct dollars spent in the Montana travel industry by residents and nonresidents is estimated to be \$4 billion.

Montana's six national-park-system units had a 9 percent increase in visitation above 2011 numbers for the first three quarters of 2012. This includes a 21 percent increase in visitors to Glacier National Park and a 2 percent increase in Yellowstone. Glacier's large increase in visitation can be attributed to the Going-to-the-Sun Road opening date, which was nearly three weeks earlier than 2011.

Airport deboardings in Montana increased 6 percent for the first three quarters in 2012 compared to the same time frame in 2011. Nearly 1.3 million people deboarded in one of Montana's eight airports, which includes the seasonal West Yellowstone Airport.

"All the indicators of visitation and spending show that the travel industry has rebounded quickly from the recent recession," said Norma Nickerson, director of the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. "Even at the national level, travel volume and travel spending are expected to continue to increase in 2013. Montana should expect at least a 2 percent increase in nonresident visitation with an increase in spending of nearly 4 percent in 2013."

According to a recent ITRR study, this agrees with 64 percent of tourism business owners across the state who said they expect an increase in 2013. "2012 was a good year economically for many of the small business and this trend will continue through 2013," Nickerson said.

Average daily expenditures by nonresident visitors to Montana are included in the following chart:

|                                | Q1            | Q2            | Q3            | Q4*           | Full Year           |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Expenditure Category           | Average Daily | Average Daily | Average Daily | Average Daily | Weighted Avg. Daily |
| Private Campground, RV<br>Park | \$ 0.02       | \$ 0.58       | \$ 1.00       | \$ 0.83       | \$ 0.75             |
| Public Campground, RV<br>Park  | \$ 0.01       | \$ 0.23       | \$ 0.27       |               | \$ 0.18             |
| Hotel, Motel                   | \$ 18.48      | \$ 13.62      | \$ 13.39      | \$ 10.56      | \$ 13.58            |
| Rental cabin, Condo            | \$ 1.81       | \$ 1.08       | \$ 1.93       | \$ 0.50       | \$ 1.46             |

|                         |           |           |           |           |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Gasoline, Oil           | \$ 46.71  | \$ 54.94  | \$ 46.11  | \$ 47.70  | \$ 48.70  |
| Restaurant, Bar         | \$ 32.35  | \$ 22.83  | \$ 25.25  | \$ 25.54  | \$ 25.51  |
| Farmers Market          | \$ -      | \$ 0.01   | \$ 0.02   |           | \$ 0.01   |
| Groceries, Snacks       | \$ 7.73   | \$ 11.98  | \$ 11.47  | \$ 9.17   | \$ 10.78  |
| Retail sales            | \$ 27.64  | \$ 20.82  | \$ 21.92  | \$ 40.47  | \$ 25.36  |
| Outfitter, Guide        | \$ 1.07   | \$ 0.48   | \$ 2.08   | \$ 0.06   | \$ 1.22   |
| Auto Rental             | \$ 4.15   | \$ 2.42   | \$ 2.30   |           | \$ 2.17   |
| Vehicle Repairs         | \$ 0.03   | \$ 0.48   | \$ 0.61   | \$ 2.93   | \$ 0.89   |
| Transportation Fares    | \$ 0.23   | \$ 0.03   | \$ 0.01   | \$ 0.04   | \$ 0.05   |
| Licenses, Entrance Fees | \$ 3.31   | \$ 2.56   | \$ 2.79   | \$ 2.42   | \$ 2.73   |
| Gambling                | \$ 0.84   | \$ 0.12   | \$ 0.08   | \$ 0.17   | \$ 0.19   |
| Misc. Services          | \$ 0.26   | \$ 0.89   | \$ 0.38   | \$ 0.26   | \$ 0.48   |
|                         | \$ 144.64 | \$ 133.07 | \$ 129.61 | \$ 140.65 | \$ 134.07 |

\*estimated

For more information about UM's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research go online to <http://www.itrr.umt.edu/>. For more information about this study, call Nickerson at 406-243-5686 or email [norma.nickerson@umontana.edu](mailto:norma.nickerson@umontana.edu).

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NN/all  
State  
120712tour

**Contact:** Norma Nickerson, director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-2328, [norma.nickerson@umontana.edu](mailto:norma.nickerson@umontana.edu).



# UM NEWS

December 06, 2012

MISSOULA –

University of Montana Dining Services will host the 15th annual Great UM Christmas Cookie Cook-Off from 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, in the Food Zoo. Members of the UM community are invited to the “The Polar Express”-themed event to spread holiday cheer by baking and decorating cookies.

Attendees may bring up to half of the cookies they bake home with them after the cook-off, and the other half will be donated to a local youth home, senior home, group shelter or other nonprofit. Annually, about 3,600 cookies are donated to 16 local charities, with more than 29 campus departments participating in the festivities.

The cook-off is open to students, faculty and staff with an active Griz Card, their families and friends. UDS will supply personnel and facilities, and Sysco Food Services of Montana will donate the cookie dough and decorations.

In addition to cookie baking, there also will be beverages, music and a children’s play area. Monte is expected to drop by to add to the excitement, and Santa will join in the party from 5 to 6 p.m.

For more information call UDS Creative Director Jerry O’Malley at 406-243-6433 or email [jerry.omalley@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jerry.omalley@mso.umt.edu).

###

BP

Local

120612cook

**Contact:** Jerry O’Malley, creative director, University Dining Services, 406-243-6433, [jerry.omalley@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jerry.omalley@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



Google

December 06, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The process of collage will be on display in “Everybody’s Fine,” a new art exhibit by University of Montana graduate student James Louks. The innovative work, displaying collages that remove imagery from their original context to create a new narrative, will open at the University Center Gallery on Monday, Jan. 28, the first day of spring semester.

Louks is pursuing master’s degrees at the UM School of Art and his latest exhibit explores what lies between the recognizable markers of our society and the commercial repackaging of these cultural elements that blur boundaries of the historical versus the contemporary.

An opening reception for the show will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31, at the UC Gallery on the second floor of the UC. The exhibit will be on display until Feb. 22.

The UC Gallery is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday during the academic year. To learn more, visit <http://www.umt.edu/uc/ucg>, call Gwen Landquist, UC marketing and art manager at 406-243-5555 or email [gwen.landquist@mso.umt.edu](mailto:gwen.landquist@mso.umt.edu); or call UC Gallery Student Coordinators Kristina Myer and Sabrina Charlson at 406-243-5564 or email [ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu](mailto:ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu).

###

BP

Local

120312fine

**Contact:** Gwen Landquist, University Center marketing and art manager, 406-243-5555, [gwen.landquist@mso.umt.edu](mailto:gwen.landquist@mso.umt.edu); Kristina Myer and Sabrina Charlson, UC Gallery student coordinators, 406-243-5564, [ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu](mailto:ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu).



# UM NEWS



December 06, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana, in partnership with the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, will offer “Journalistic Tools for Scientists,” a Wintersession online course for graduate students in the sciences.

The course breaks new ground in helping scientists communicate with the general public by sharing the tools of the trade employed by seasoned journalists.

“Journalists are trained to speak the language of the general public, and that language is different from the vernacular used in the sciences,” said course instructor and veteran journalist Henriette Lowisch. “By sharing practical journalistic skills, we intend to help scientists do a better job spreading the word about research and discoveries that are important to the future of humanity.”

The National Science Foundation EPSCoR program, a federally funded program to promote the development of science and technology capacity in the U.S., provided grant money for the course, which was developed in collaboration with the UM Systems Ecology Intercollegiate Graduate Program.

The course will be taught entirely online during UM's compact Wintersession, Jan. 2-23. UOnline, a program housed within the School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, employs a team of graphic and instructional designers who helped develop a series of RSA-style animated lectures and social media to make the course as engaging as possible.

Lowisch, an associate professor at the UM School of Journalism, also directs the graduate program in environmental science and natural resource journalism. Before joining the UM faculty, she worked for the Agence France-Presse in Berlin, covering climate negotiations and creating a health and science desk for AFP's German Service.

Lowisch notes that news is created in a few hours, while scientific research is completed over years. Both professions, however, share certain principles, including objective methods, a focus on independent thought and peer review.

Registration for “Journalistic Tools for Scientists” is now open, but limited. Interested students can visit <http://www.umt.edu/journalismtools> to learn more and to register. For more information call Lowisch at 406-243-2227 or email [henriette.lowisch@umontana.edu](mailto:henriette.lowisch@umontana.edu).

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BP  
Local, Campus  
120512scie

**Contact:** Henriette Lowisch, associate professor and graduate program director, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-2227, [henriette.lowisch@umontana.edu](mailto:henriette.lowisch@umontana.edu); Beth Burman Frazee, marketing director, UM School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, 406-243-6721, [beth.burman-frazee@umontana.edu](mailto:beth.burman-frazee@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 06, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has appointed University of Montana Professor Charles Thompson as a 2013 AAAS Fellow. The prestigious fellowship recognizes an individual's contributions to science and technology.

Thompson, who teaches in UM's Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, was one of 12 Fellows appointed in the pharmaceutical sciences section. He is the fifth UM faculty member ever to receive the honor.

Thompson's research primarily focuses on advancing the understanding of how certain classes of insecticides are detrimental to human health. Describing himself as a neurochemist, his research integrates chemistry, biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, and bioinformatics, which he "quilts together" to try answering problems. The collaborative nature of his work and science in general, he said, resonates in his appointment as an AAAS Fellow.

"It feels like all the people that work with me were co-rewarded," Thompson said. "Science is such a teamwork-oriented profession."

When he isn't teaching, researching or writing grants for UM, Thompson works to develop biosensors that can detect the effects of insecticides in the human body as the co-founder of ATERIS Technologies.

Similar to an over-the-counter pregnancy or diabetes test, ATERIS Technologies hopes to produce tests that could quickly and easily determine specific effects of insecticide exposure on the human body. This knowledge could potentially advance food-safety standards and prevent neurological damage in workers and consumers.

"Most companies are looking for the insecticide," Thompson said. "We're looking for the burden in the body the insecticide causes."

AAAS Fellow candidates can be nominated by current Fellows, the steering groups for each section or the chief executive officer. Nominations undergo review by the steering groups and are elected by the AAAS Council.

The 700 AAAS Fellows are invited to gather at the Fellows Forum on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013, during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston. Each will receive a certificate and blue-and-gold rosette as a symbol of their distinguished accomplishments.

UM faculty members formerly appointed as AAAS Fellows are Fred Allendorf, Tom Martin, Ray Callaway, Jack Stanford and Stephen Sprang. Cathy Lynn Whitlock of Montana State University in **Bozeman** also was appointed as a 2013 AAAS Fellow, in the geology and geography category.

For more information call Thompson at 406-243-4643 or email [charles.thompson@umontana.edu](mailto:charles.thompson@umontana.edu). More information on AAAS Fellows is available online at <http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/fellows/>.

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**Contact:** Charles Thompson, professor, UM Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 406-243-4643, [charles.thompson@umontana.edu](mailto:charles.thompson@umontana.edu).





# UM NEWS

December 03, 2012

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana Allies Program planning team has scheduled training from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7. The training is open to UM faculty, staff and administrators.

UM Allies promotes a campus environment that is inclusive and supportive of all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The goals of the program are to identify and nurture safe people and spaces for LGBTIQ campus members by having “out” allies; create visible support for the LGBTIQ community with stickers and a website; develop opportunities for heterosexual and gender-conforming allies to help broadly promote awareness of diversity issues on campus; and to recruit and train new allies and reach “invisible”/vulnerable community members.

By fostering opportunities for heterosexual and non gender-conforming allies to work together for LGBTIQ equality through education and awareness, the group aims to nurture visible support and a safe space for all campus members.

For more information visit the UM Allies website at <http://www.umt.edu/umallies>. To sign up for the training, call Adrienne Donald at 406-243-6029 or email [adonald@mso.umt.edu](mailto:adonald@mso.umt.edu).

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**Contact:** Adrienne Donald, UC interim associate director and UM Allies committee member, 406-243-6029, [adonald@mso.umt.edu](mailto:adonald@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 03, 2012

**MISSOULA –**

The University of Montana will host the first of three public planning meetings about the South Campus Master Plan on Wednesday, Dec. 5. The meeting will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. in Health and Business Building Room HB01 at Missoula College, located at 909 South Ave. W.

UM's South Campus acreage now includes the UM Golf Course, track and soccer facilities, student housing and bus stops. The master plan would bring a suite of new buildings and other projects to the South Campus, starting with the proposed new building for Missoula College. The master plan, which was approved by the Board of Regents in 2007, was developed to guide the growth of UM for the next five decades.

This week's meeting will kick off with an open house and information tables from 4 to 6 p.m. Mark Headley of Studio Forma Architects, who designed the proposed Missoula College building, will present from 6 to 6:30 p.m., and UM President Royce Engstrom will offer remarks from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

A question-and-answer session will be held from 7 to 8 p.m.

Two follow-up meetings will be scheduled early next year. For more information, call the UM President's Office at 406-243-2311.

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**Contact:** Peggy Kuhr, UM interim vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, [peggy.kuhr@mso.umt.edu](mailto:peggy.kuhr@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 03, 2012

## MISSOULA –

A growing portion of Montana youth have been characterized as idle over the past decade, with 17 percent of those ages 16-19 being neither employed nor enrolled in school during 2011. The increase of two percentage points since 2000 is not large, but it does demonstrate that the joblessness precipitated by the recent recession has impacted youths as well as adults, according to a researcher at The University of Montana.

Thale Dillon, director of Montana KIDS COUNT at UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, said that though the state's rate of idle youth is higher than the national average of 13 percent, Montana managed to keep 37 percent of youth ages 16-19 employed during 2000, compared to the national rate of 26 percent.

According to a new KIDS COUNT report released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Youth and Work: Restoring Teen and Young Adult Connections to Opportunity," youths who are disengaged as a consequence of being high school dropouts and unemployed are veering toward a path of chronic underemployment as adults and risk not gaining the skills employers require in the 21st century.

"To get a job these days you need experience, but you can't get experience without a job," reads the report. "For youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, the challenges can be even greater."

Recent research shows that the brains of young adults need positive work experiences early on to develop properly, including the self-management skills to meet day-to-day demands of family, work and community, Dillon said. It is troubling – both from a physiological and from an economic perspective – that growing numbers of American and Montana youth find themselves out of school and out of work, she said.

"Many of these young people face numerous obstacles," Dillon said. "They are often described as disconnected youth and encounter greater competition from older workers for increasingly scarce entry-level jobs, especially in light of the recession, and lack the higher skill set required for the well-paying jobs that are available. They often don't graduate from high school on time or ready for college, further decreasing their employment options. And many contend with hurdles beyond their control, such as growing up in poverty, having few working adults as role models, attending low-performing schools and living with a single parent."

The lack of education, opportunity and connection to school or work has long-term implications, according to the report. As adults, these youth may find themselves unable to achieve financial stability and without employment prospects. They also can present a significant cost to taxpayers, as government spends more to support them. In addition, the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey show more than 20 percent, or 1.4 million of these youths, have children of their own, which means their inability to find work and build careers can perpetuate an intergenerational cycle of poverty.

The Casey Foundation report emphasizes the need to provide multiple, flexible pathways to success for disconnected young people, and find ways to re-engage high school dropouts. It also advocates creating opportunities for youth in school or other public systems that allow them to gain early job experience through such avenues as community service, internships and summer and part-time work. Its major recommendations include:

- **A national youth employment strategy** developed by policymakers that streamlines systems and makes financial aid, funding and other support services more accessible and flexible; encourages more businesses to hire young people; and focuses on results, not process.
- **Aligning resources** within communities and among public and private funders to create collaborative efforts to support youth.
- **Exploring new ways to create jobs** through social enterprises such as Goodwill and microenterprises, with the support of public and private investors.
- **Employer-sponsored earn-and-learn programs** that foster the talent and skills that businesses require – and develop the types of employees they need.

According to Jennifer Calder, outreach coordinator with Montana KIDS COUNT, there are a number of programs in Montana that have proven successful in reconnecting youth with graduation and the workplace. The Montana Department of Labor and Industry's program, Jobs for Montana's Graduates, reaches out to schools with at-risk students to provide classroom-based career awareness, self-esteem and work-readiness skills. The **Dillon**-based Montana National Guard Youth Challenge helps troubled youths graduate from high school.

The KIDS COUNT report presents state-by-state data and highlights how these issues are exacerbated among youth from low-income families and among minority populations. Additional information on disconnected youth and young adults is available in the KIDS COUNT Data Center, which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private national charitable organization that aims to create better futures for the nation's children by strengthening families, building economic opportunities and transforming neighborhoods into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit <http://www.aecf.org/>. KIDS COUNT is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The full report can be accessed online at <http://www.montanakidscount.org/Special%20Reports>.

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**Contact:** Thale Dillon, director of Montana KIDS COUNT, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, , 406-243-5113, [thale.dillon@business.umt.edu](mailto:thale.dillon@business.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



December 03, 2012

MISSOULA –

Country music band Rascal Flatts will perform Friday, Jan. 25, at the Adams Center at The University of Montana. Special guests The Band Perry and Kristen Kelly will kick off the show, which begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets go on sale 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 7, and cost \$62.50 for reserved seating and \$32.50 for limited-view seating. There is a four-ticket limit per person and processing fees will be added to the order. They can be purchased at the Adams Center Box Office, The Source in the University Center, MSO Hub, Worden's Market and Southgate Mall. Tickets also are available online at <http://www.griztix.com> and at <http://www.livenation.com/> or by calling 406-243-4051 or 1-888-MONTANA.

Rascal Flatts will visit Missoula as part of their “Changed” tour, which they recently extended by adding 20 new dates that stretch into March.

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**Contact:** Zoe Donovan, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 406-243-4719, 406-396-2670, [marketing@umproductions.org](mailto:marketing@umproductions.org); Clare Tully, marketing coordinator, Live Nation, [claretully@livenation.com](mailto:claretully@livenation.com).